

Performance Pathway Support (PPS) Program — 2027

Athlete & Parent Information Sheet

From 2027, the GSA Performance Pathway Support (PPS) Program has a refreshed, clearer structure. It's designed for athletes whose sport sits outside GSA's dedicated sport programs, and it gives a straightforward path to support, services and — for those on track — progression to State and National pathways.

This sheet is a plain-language guide for athletes and families. The full Program Overview and Athlete Playbook go into more detail, and GSA staff are always happy to talk it through.

What's New for 2027

- **A clear 3-year journey** — Fundamentals (Year 1) → Development (Year 2) → Refinement (Year 3), each with its own goals and support.
- **Milestones unlock support** — complete simple, structured milestones (see below) to access subsidised services.
- **The Athlete Playbook** — a personal record book each athlete uses at planning meetings and check-ins, to track goals, milestones and wellbeing.
- **A stronger focus on wellbeing and safety** — regular wellbeing check-ins, and clear child-safety commitments in line with national guidelines for young athletes.
- **Program values** — Excellence, Resilience, Accountability and Community Connection guide everything from selection to support.
- **A new Open Program tier** — for athletes aged 18–25, entering through coach recommendation (see below).

Three Program Tiers

Tier	Who It's For
Development Squad	Emerging athletes building foundational habits
Performance Pathway	State/National-level athletes; full 3-year journey and up to \$300/year in services
Open Program (new)	Athletes aged 18–25, entering through a coach recommendation. Skips the Induction Day and instead receives subsidised short-term gym membership, an athlete mentor, and one subsidised session each with a Sport Psychologist and Nutritionist

How the Program Works

This is the pathway for the Performance Pathway and Development Squad tiers. The Open Program follows a simpler route — see below.

1	Apply online — open to athletes competing at Regional level or above
2	Selection — a holistic review of performance, character and need; a short interview may be required
3	Induction & planning meeting — athlete, parent/guardian, coach (if relevant) and GSA staff set goals together
4	Complete milestones — unlocks access to subsidised services
5	Check-ins & year-end review — 2–3 times a year, using the Athlete Playbook, to track progress and plan ahead

Open Program: a coach recommends the athlete to GSA, who then arranges the mentor pairing and first sessions directly — no application or Induction Day required.

What Your Athlete Gets — and What We Ask

What Your Athlete Receives	What We Ask of Your Athlete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strength & Conditioning program + regional sessions ● Fitness testing, up to twice a year ● Up to \$300/year in subsidised services (physio, sport psychology, tutoring, travel and more) ● Athlete Education Day and workshops ● GSA uniform and Awards Dinner invitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete musculoskeletal screening ● At least 80% attendance at S&C sessions ● Complete required milestones on time ● Represent GSA with respect and professionalism ● Balance sport with school, work and life ● Speak up if support is needed — that's encouraged, not discouraged ● Keep your Athlete Playbook up to date

Cost & Eligibility

Fees	Eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$400 per year (standard) ● \$250 for the Dec 2026 intake ● Uniform: approx. \$95 (polo & shorts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance Pathway / Development Squad: Regional level or above (incl. SSV) ● Open to all sports except Baseball, Clay Target Shooting, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Swimming, Taekwondo, Tennis and Volleyball (GSA full sport programs) ● Open Program: ages 18–25, entry via coach recommendation

Safety & Wellbeing

GSA treats young athletes as a distinct group with their own needs — not as mini-professionals. The program includes regular wellbeing check-ins, a clear Code of Conduct, Working with Children Checks for staff and providers, and an easy way to raise a concern at any time.

If you ever have a concern about your child's safety, wellbeing or experience in the program, please contact GSA directly — you don't need to wait for a scheduled check-in.

Common Questions

- **What if my child plays more than one sport?** That's fine, and encouraged — the Athlete Planning Meeting looks at total training load across all sports, not just the primary one.
- **What happens if a milestone isn't completed?** Access to the next service is simply paused until it's done — GSA staff will help identify what's needed and support your child to get there.
- **Can my child leave the program?** Yes, at any time, by letting GSA know in writing. There's no penalty for stepping back.
- **My athlete has turned 18 — what changes?** They may be eligible for the Open Program, entered through a coach recommendation rather than an application. Ask your coach or GSA staff.
- **Where can I see full details?** The GSA PPS Program Overview and Athlete Playbook documents cover the full framework — ask GSA staff for a copy.

Questions or Want to Apply?

Contact Anita on 0411 435 819, or speak with your GSA regional coordinator.

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****Please note:** The Gippsland Sports Academy reserves the right to amend, modify or update this program at its discretion.